



CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (canceled)

2 (canceled)

3 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 24 wherein said connector structure comprises a plurality of brackets attached to said frame and extending rearwardly from said frame, said brackets defining recesses receiving said housing at spaced locations on said housing.

4 (canceled)

5 (canceled)

6 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 26 wherein said mat attachment structure maintains said mat in a substantially planar condition.

7 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 24 additionally including an electronic component receptacle on said frame and defining a receptacle interior for receiving at least one electronic component operatively associated with said flat panel TV screen operable by wireless control transmissions from a control external of the apparatus, said electronic component receptacle being disposed behind said frame and substantially hidden from view by a person positioned in front of said flat panel TV screen.

8 (canceled)

9 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 7 wherein said electronic component receptacle is divided into a plurality of compartments, each defining a compartment interior, said receptacle interior being at least partially comprised of said compartment interiors, each said compartment interior for receiving a modular electronic component operable by said wireless control transmissions.

10 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 7 additionally including receptacle connector structure releasably connecting said electronic component receptacle to said frame.

11 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein said electronic component receptacle defines a plurality of primary openings communicating with said compartment interiors and facilitating selective installation or removal of said modular electronic components.

12 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein said electronic component receptacle additionally defines a plurality of auxiliary openings for accommodating wires extending between modular electronic components received by said compartment interiors and said flat panel TV screen.

13 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 9 additionally comprising an electrical connector receptacle for receiving a multi-outlet electrical connector employed to provide an electrical connection between said modular electronic components and a source of electricity.

14 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 13 wherein said electrical connector receptacle is integral with said frame.

15 - 23 (canceled)

24 (currently amended): Apparatus for connection to a flat panel TV screen to improve the appearance thereof and to facilitate operation of audio and video functions related to said flat panel TV screen, said flat panel TV screen having a screen viewing area and a housing surrounding the screen viewing area, said apparatus including a frame having a frame top, a frame bottom and frame sides defining a frame opening larger than the size of the screen viewing area of the flat panel TV screen and a mat having a fixed rectangular configuration releasably attached to said frame extending inwardly from the frame top, frame bottom and frame sides along the entire combined length thereof into the frame opening, said mat being formed of material allowing passage therethrough of wireless control transmissions and having a mat opening smaller than said frame opening, and connector structure for connecting said releasably attached frame and mat to said

flat panel TV screen, said mat when said releasably attached frame and mat are connected to said flat panel TV screen by said connector structure being maintained in a fixed position and immovable relative to said frame and viewing area, extending from said frame toward said screen viewing area and completely surrounding said screen viewing area, said mat being sized and configured to allow viewing of said screen viewing area through said frame opening and through said mat opening, said releasably attached frame and mat cooperable to substantially cover said housing and substantially shield said housing from view by a person observing said screen viewing area while allowing control of audio and video functions by wireless control transmissions through said apparatus.

25 (canceled)

26 (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 24 additionally comprising mat attachment structure for releasably attaching said mat to said frame whereby said mat may be removed from said frame and replaced by a substitute mat.

27 (currently amended): Apparatus for releasable connection to a flat panel TV screen to improve the appearance thereof and to facilitate operation of audio and video functions related to said flat panel TV screen, said flat panel TV screen having a screen viewing area and a housing surrounding the screen viewing area, said apparatus including a frame completely

surrounding the screen viewing area of the flat panel TV screen when the frame is connected to the flat panel TV screen, and a wireless receiver ~~incorporated~~ located in said frame for receiving wireless transmissions transmitted toward said frame from a transmitter external of said frame operatively associated with audio/video equipment external of said frame and receiving electronic signals from said audio/video equipment, said receiver being hidden from view by an observer of said flat panel TV screen and operatively associated with said flat panel TV screen when the apparatus is connected to the flat panel TV screen for inputting said electronic signals into said flat panel TV screen.

28 (new): Apparatus for connection to a flat panel TV screen to improve the appearance thereof and to facilitate operation of audio and video functions related to said flat panel TV screen, said flat panel TV screen having a screen viewing area and a housing surrounding the screen viewing area, said apparatus including a frame having a frame opening larger than the size of the screen viewing area of the flat panel TV screen and a mat releasably attached to said frame extending inwardly from the frame into the frame opening, said mat being formed of material allowing passage therethrough of wireless control transmissions and having a mat opening smaller than said frame opening, and connector structure for connecting said releasably attached frame and mat to said flat panel TV screen, said mat when said

releasably attached frame and mat are connected to said flat panel TV screen by said connector structure extending from said frame toward said screen viewing area and surrounding said screen viewing area, said mat being sized and configured to allow viewing of said screen viewing area through said frame opening and through said mat opening, said releasably attached frame and mat cooperable to substantially cover said housing and substantially shield said housing from view by a person observing said screen viewing area while allowing control of audio and video functions by wireless control transmissions, said housing including at least one loudspeaker communicating with said frame opening, and said mat being formed of sound transmissive material and disposed over said at least one loudspeaker and blocking said at least one loudspeaker from view through said frame opening when said releasably attached frame and mat are connected to said flat panel TV screen.